

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01 IO-13

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PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN REACTION TO CHILEAN COUP

REF: VIENNA 7550; 7604

1. SUMMARY: REACTION TO CHILEAN EVENTS VARIED GREATLY IN POLITICAL CIRCLES DEPENDING UPON PRIOR ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. GOA AVOIDED OFFICIAL COMMENT. CHANCELLOR KREISKY EXPRESSED REGRET AT "VIOLENT TERMINATION OF DEMOCRATIC ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT RADICAL REFORMS". SOCIALIST PARTY'S LEFT WING WAS HIGHLY CONDEMNATORY OF MILITARY TAKEOVER AND INJECTED ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES IN ITS ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS. CONSERVATIVE PARTIES AND PRESS REACTED IN DETACHED FASHION. END SUMMARY.

2. GOA AVOIDED ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT ON CHILEAN COUP. IN RESPONSE TO YOUTH GROUP DEMAND FOR NON-RECOGNITION OF JUNTA, FOREIGN OFFICE DECLARED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE WOULD NOT BE SEVERED SINCE RELATIONS WERE WITH COUNTRY, NOT WITH PARTICULAR REGIME. HOWEVER, KREISKY
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IN DUAL CAPACITY AS CHANCELLOR AND AS SOCIALIST PARTY

CHAIRMAN CRITICIZED OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS, EMPHASIZING AT ONE TIME THAT MILITARY COUP ENDED "TRULY DEMOCRATIC ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT RADICAL FORMS" WHICH CANNOT BE JUDGED FAILURE AS IT WAS VIOLENTLY INTERRUPTED. KREISKY CAUTIONED CONSERVATIVES NOT TO REJOICE AT CHILEAN DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE POPULAR WEAKNESS IN FACE OF MILITARY COUPS COULD LEAD TO DISENCHANTMENT WITH DEMOCRACY AND POLARIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA "BETWEEN LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OPPOSING RIGHTIST VIOLENCE".

3. IN VIEW ALL-OUR SUPPORT GIVEN ALLENDE BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND APPROVAL OF THIS POLICY BY SEGEMENTS OF AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (SPOE), MORE LEFTIST SPOE ELEMENTS MANAGED TO HAVE MODERATE DRAFT RESOLUTION PRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER 19 SPOE COUNCIL MEETING MODIFIED TO INCLUDE ANTI-US REFERENCE BY INSISTING ON ADDITION SENTENCE THAT "CHILEAN PEOPLE WOULD EVENTUALLY KICK OUT GENERALS AND THEIR MONOPOLIST CAPITALIST HELPERS". BRUNO PITTERMANN, PRESIDENT OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, WENT STEP FURTHER AT SPOE COUNCIL MEETING IN CRITICIZING INVOLVEMENT OF "US CAPITALIST REACTIONARIES" IN CHILE, ADDING THAT "US NON-INTERFERENCE IN CHILE WAS AS CREDIBLE AS US NEUTRALITY TOWARD CAMBODIA". SIMILAR ASSERTIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT, EITHER BY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (SOCIALIST PRESS) OR CIA (COMMUNISTS) WERE REPEATED THEMES.

4. CHILEAN COUP TOUCHED OFF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18 IN VIENNA, LINZ, GRAZ AND SALZBURG. LARGEST OF THESE TOOK PLACE IN VIENNA ORGANIZED BY COMMITTEE OF ALL POLITICAL CAMPS, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, WHICH DREW ESTIMATED 5,000 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY YOUTHS, ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS AND BANNERS IN EVIDENCE AT EACH DEMONSTRATION.

5. CONSERVATIVE PARTIES (OEVF AND FPÖ) WITHHELD PUBLIC COMMENT. WHILE DEPLORING VIOLENCE ATTENDING ALLENDE OVERTHROW, CONSERVATIVE MEDIA EMPHASIZED CHAOTIC ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO JUNTA'S TAKEOVER. HUMB

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